



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,831	02/21/2002	Yoshinori Hino	10417-119001 / F51-143213	9597
26211	7590	03/09/2004	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. 45 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, SUITE 2800 NEW YORK, NY 10111			NGUYEN, JOSEPH H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2815	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,831

Applicant(s)

HINO ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph Nguyen

Art Unit

2815

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-9, 11-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 7 and 8, it is not understood in what magnitude or dimension a dummy pattern is having the same shape as the output bits since the shape hereby is not structurally specified in terms of length, width, thickness...etc.

Regarding claims 6 and 12, it is not understood in what magnitude or dimension the dummy pattern has the same shape as a wiring for gate electrode since the shape hereby is not structurally specified in terms of length, width, thickness...etc.

Claims 3, 5, 9, 11 are also rejected due to their dependency upon the base rejected claims above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

Art Unit: 2815

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Minami et al.

Regarding claim 1, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 a semiconductor device comprising a plurality of regions representing output bits 36; and a dummy pattern 37 having the same shape as the output bits formed to be adjacent to the end portion of an output bit group.

Note that the limitation "wherein each output bit group constituting a cathode driver, an anode driver and an anode driver for icon" is merely the intended use. One skilled in the art would be able to label output bits 36 (wiring) as cathode driver, anode driver and an anode driver for icon and they would function in the same manner.

Regarding claim 2, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 a semiconductor device for a driver comprising a plurality of output one bits 36 constituting an output bit group; and a dummy pattern 37 having the same shape as the output bits formed to be adjacent to the end portion of the output bit group.

Note that the limitation "wherein each output bit group constituting a cathode driver, an anode driver and an anode driver for icon" is merely the intended use. One skilled in the art would be able to label output bits 36 (wiring) as cathode driver, anode driver and an anode driver for icon and they would function in the same manner.

Regarding claim 3, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 the dummy pattern 37 is formed at an empty space in a region where a plurality of output bits are arranged.

Art Unit: 2815

Regarding claim 4, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 the dummy pattern 37 is formed to be adjacent to the end portion of each output bit group constituting a cathode driver, an anode driver and an anode driver for icon.

Regarding claim 6, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 the dummy pattern 37 has the same shape as a wiring 32 for gate electrode.

Regarding claim 7, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 a pattern layout method of a semiconductor device arranged with plural output bits comprising forming a dummy pattern 37 having the same shape as the output bits to be adjacent to an end portion of an output bit group.

Note that the limitation "wherein each output bit group constituting a cathode driver, an anode driver and an anode driver for icon" is merely the intended use. One skilled in the art would be able to label output bits 36 (wiring) as cathode driver, anode driver and an anode driver for icon and they would function in the same manner.

Regarding claim 8, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 a pattern layout method of a semiconductor device arranged with plural output bits and constituting an output bit group comprising forming a dummy pattern 37 having the same shape as the output bits to be adjacent to an end portion of the output bit group.

Note that the limitation "wherein each output bit group constituting a cathode driver, an anode driver and an anode driver for icon" is merely the intended use. One skilled in the art would be able to label output bits 36 (wiring) as cathode driver, anode driver and an anode driver for icon and they would function in the same manner.

Art Unit: 2815

Regarding claim 9, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 the dummy pattern 37 is formed at an empty space in a region where the plural output bits are arranged.

Regarding claim 10, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 the dummy pattern 37 is formed to be adjacent to the end portion of each output bit group constituting a cathode driver, an anode driver and an anode driver for icon.

Regarding claim 12, Minami et al discloses on figure 15 the dummy pattern 37 has the same shape as a wiring 32 for gate electrode.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 11/17/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Minami et al does not disclose the limitation "wherein each output bit group constituting a cathode driver, an anode driver and an anode driver for icon" as recited in amended claims 1, 2, 7 and 8. However, Minami clearly discloses on figure 15 the output bit group 36. As explained above, one skilled in the art would be able to label output bits 36 (wiring) as cathode driver, anode driver and an anode driver for icon and they would function in the same manner. As such, the claimed subject matter does not structurally distinguish from Minami therein.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30 am- 4:30 pm

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JN
February 11, 2004


JEROME JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER